

Remarks

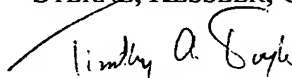
Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 22-24 are pending in the application, with claim 22 being the independent claim. Claims 1-21 and 25-38 are sought to be canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 22-24 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Timothy A. Doyle
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 51,262

Date: 23 FEB 04

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

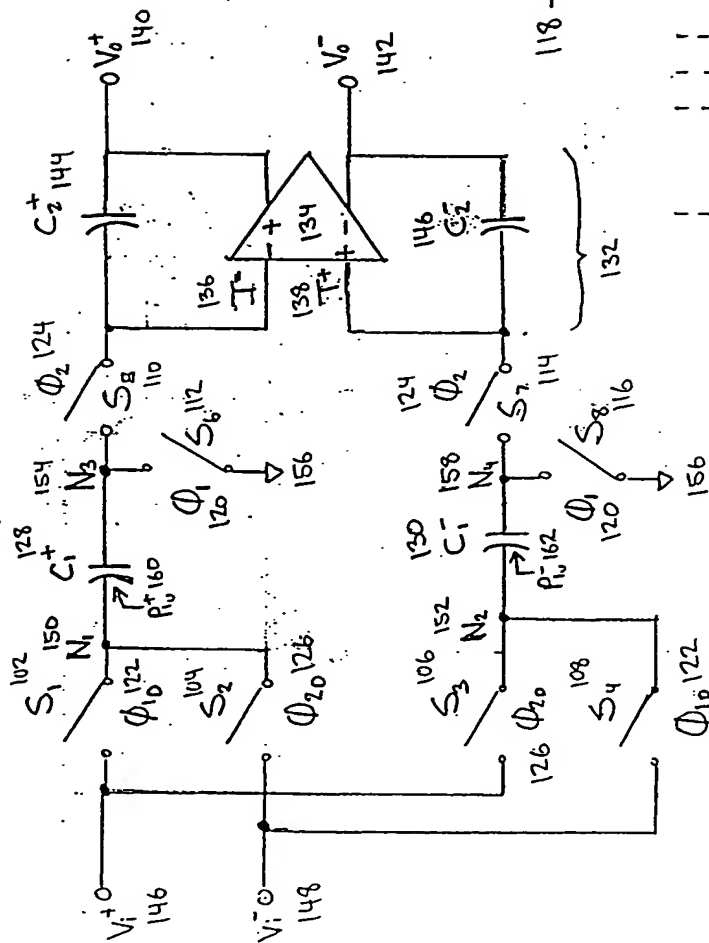
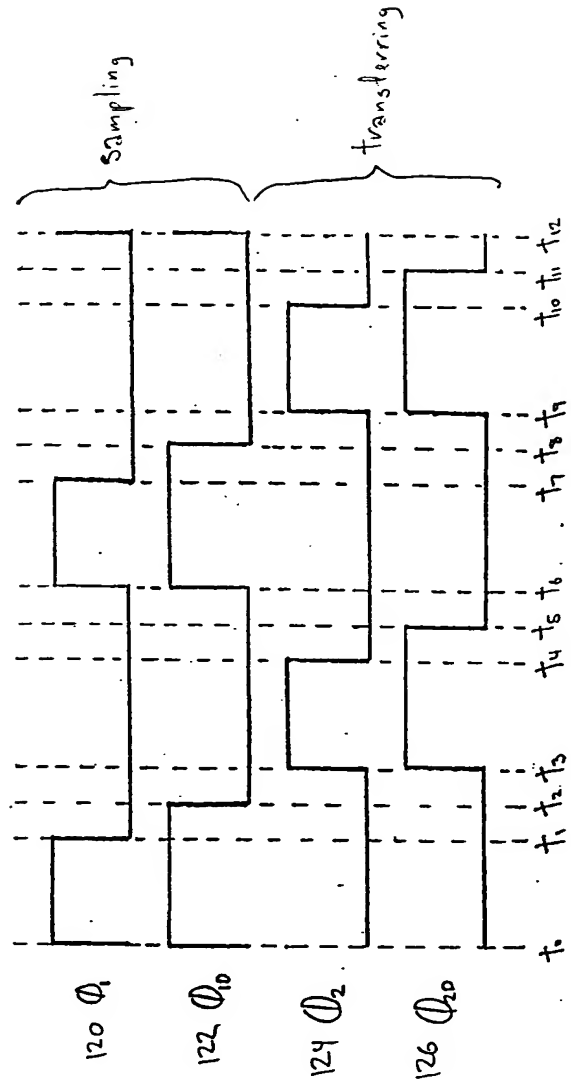
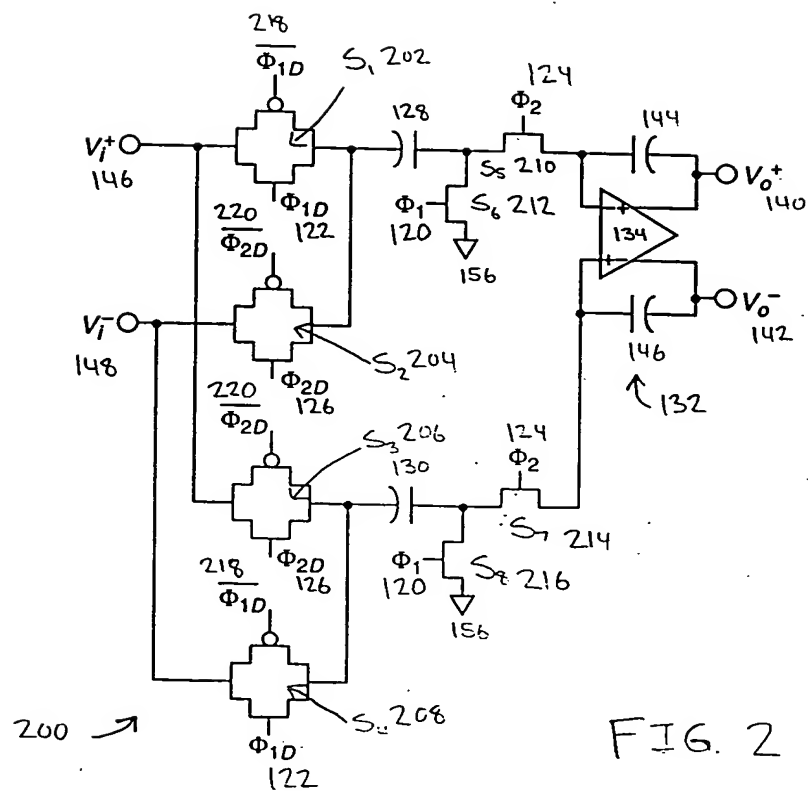


FIG. 1B





PRIOR ART

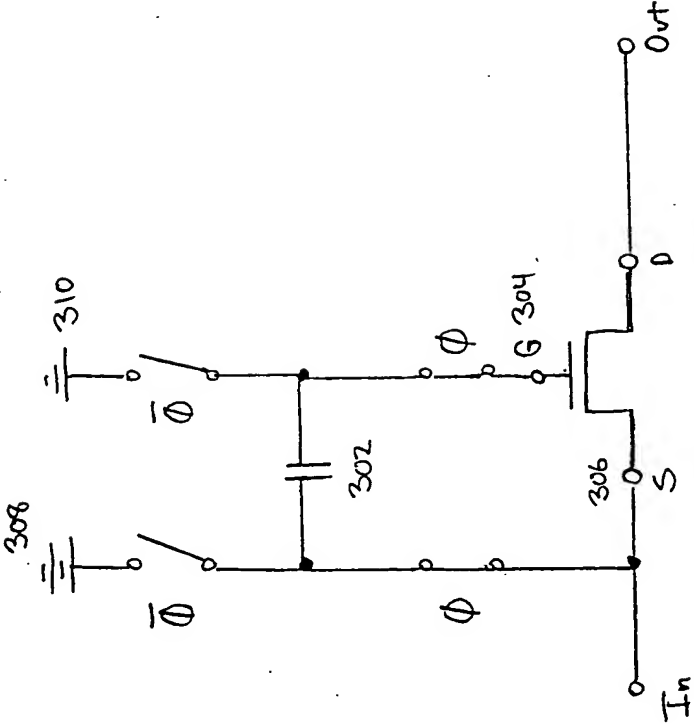
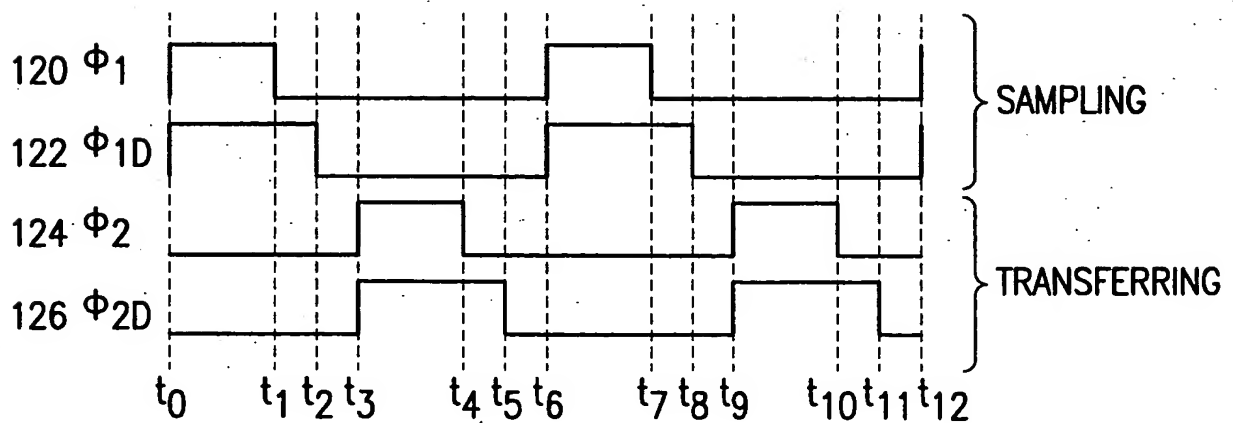
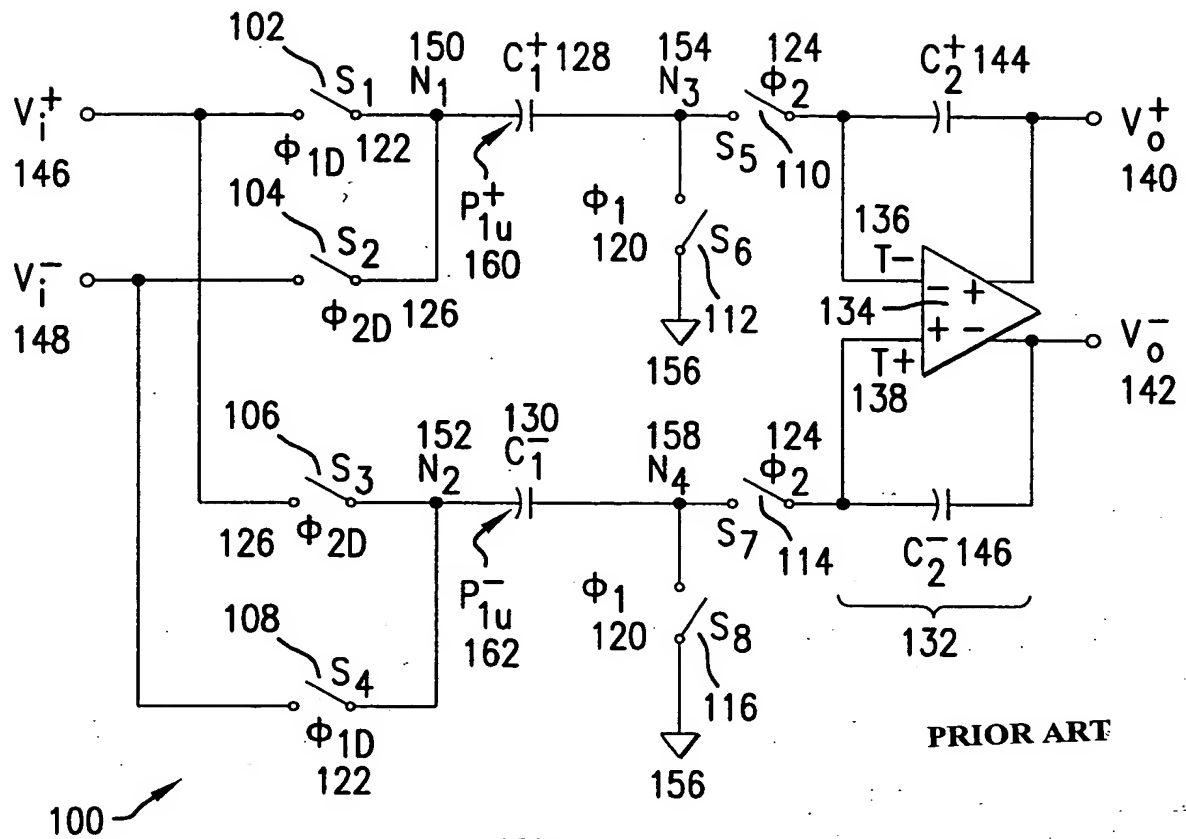


FIG. 3
PRIOR ART



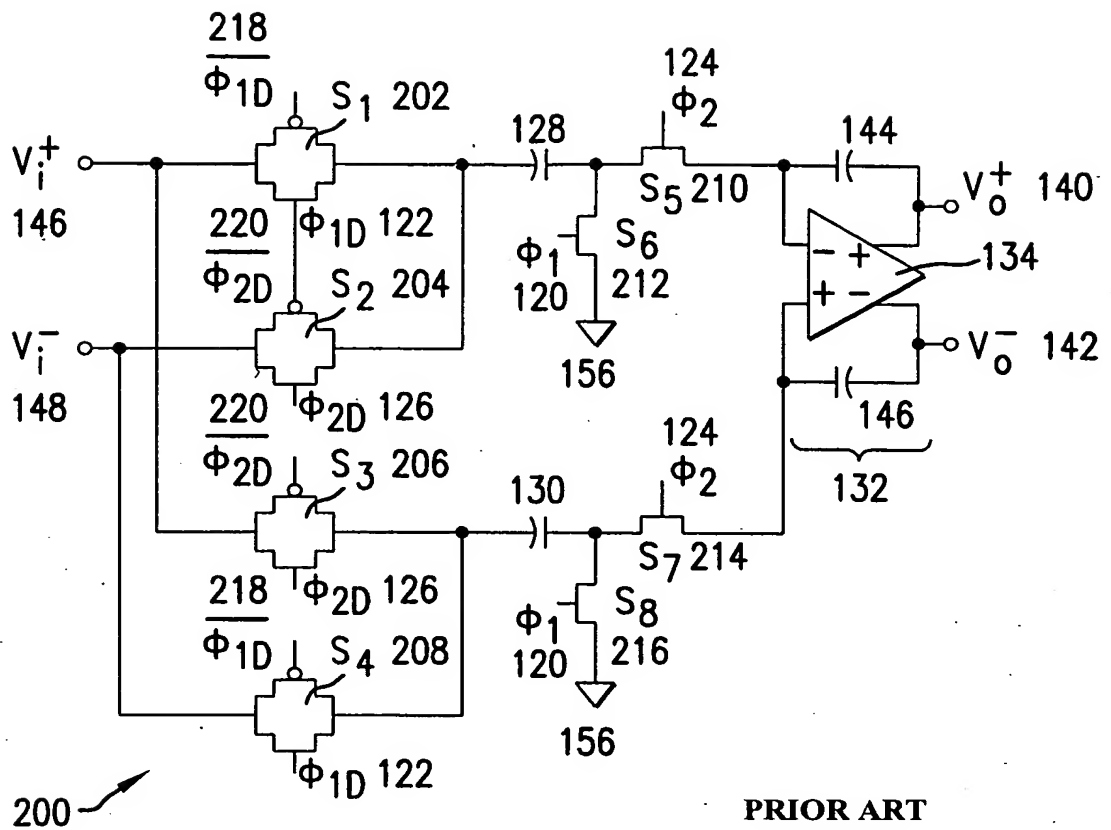


FIG. 2

PRIOR ART

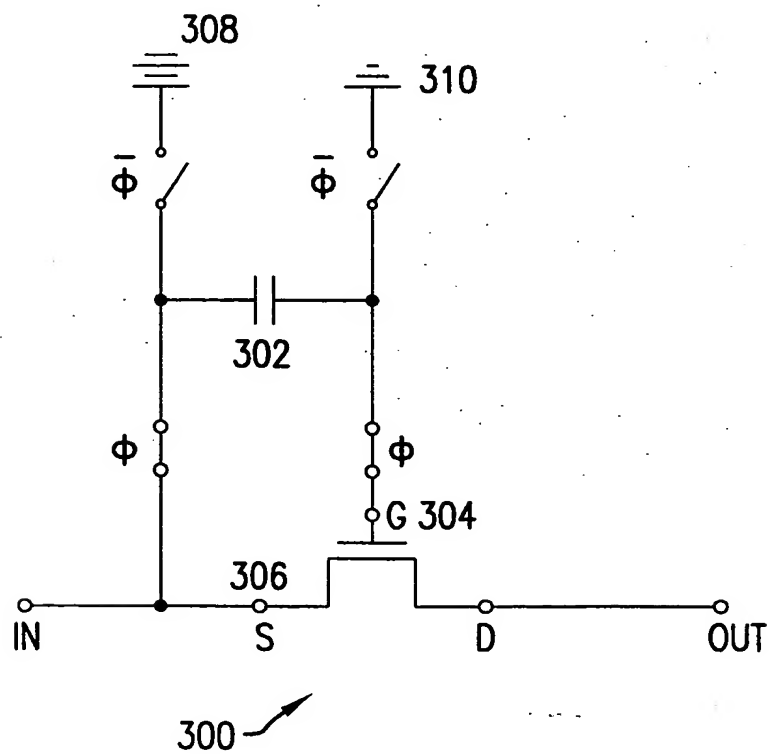


FIG. 3

PRIOR ART